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Governor Sean Parnell  
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December 3, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I understand that you recently received a letter from a group of United States senators requesting that you declare the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) a national monument. The State of Alaska strongly opposes any measures that would further encumber job potential and domestic energy production on the coastal plain of ANWR, the most promising unexplored petroleum region in North America.

Beyond this, compelling legal reasons weigh against a monument designation. The State of Alaska Department of Law has reviewed this matter and determined that such action would violate federal law unless ratified by both houses of Congress, even though the lands involved were previously included within an established wildlife refuge. Provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) expressly limit executive branch withdrawal authority in the state, with additional restrictions related to ANWR. A copy of the Alaska Attorney General's legal memorandum supporting the State's conclusion is enclosed.

Thank you for considering our views. We would be pleased to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Kenneth L. Salazar, Secretary, United States Department of the Interior